Funds for pending irrigation projects

†4298. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1228 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 11th March, 2008 and state:

(a) the details of allocations made by the State Governments during Eleventh Five Year Plan for these incomplete projects; and

(b) whether Central Government would get all these projects completed by the end of Eleventh Five Year Plan by providing advanced plan aid or loan in order to complete this incomplete spill over?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The overall outlay for the irrigation sector proposed in the Eleventh Five Year Plan Document is as under:

State Plan	Rs. 1,82,050 crore
State Sector Schemes *i.e.* Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme and other schemes	Rs. 47,015 crore
TOTAL:	Rs. 2,29,065 crore

Irrigation development being a State subject, planning, execution, operation and maintenance of irrigation projects are carried out by the State Governments from their own resources and as per their own requirements and priority of works. Central Government provides assistance and guidance to the State Governments as and when necessary. In regard to the completion of ongoing projects, fund constraint is considered as one of the major bottlenecks. The Central Government has been providing Central assistance in the form of loan/grant under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97 in order to expedite completion of the ongoing projects. The guidelines for such funding are being revised from time to time in order to enhance the scope of funding as well as to allow special consideration for the region lagging behind in development, which presently include North-eastern States, hilly States, drought prone and tribal areas, Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi districts of Orissa, States with lower irrigation development as compared to national average, and projects in the agrarian distressed districts identified under PM Package.

Interlinking of major rivers

4299. SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to link all the major rivers in India;

(b) whether there is any proposal pending with the Ministry which was prepared by the previous NDA Government; and

(c) whether any amount of money has been allotted for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) (erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation) and Central Water Commission (CWC) formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development in 1980 envisaging inter-basin transfer of water from surplus basins to deficit basins/areas which comprises of two components, namely, Himalayan Rivers Development Component and Peninsular Rivers Development Component. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was set up under

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.